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C-100 (CIA LETTER)
(410) CIA-LETTER

WASHINGTON, JULY 26 (AP)—A LETTER PURPORTEDLY WRITTEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY PRAISING A NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL ENTITLED "BRICKBATS FOR FULBRIGHT" CAUSED A FURORE IN THE SENATE TODAY.

SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER MING MANFIELD OF MONTANA CALLED IT "A MOST SERIOUS MATTER" AND EXPRESSED HOPE ALL SENATORS "WOULD TAKE COGNIZANCE OF IT."

SEN. EUGENE J. MCCARTHY, D-MINN., A MEMBER OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, BROUGHT UP THE LETTER WHICH HE SAID HAD BEEN SENT TO THE ST. LOUIS GLOBE DEMOCRAT AND SIGNED BY RICHARD HELMS, THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE CIA.

THE EDITORIAL WAS ON THE SENATOR'S ACTION SIDETRACKING AN EFFORT BY THE FOREIGN RELATIONS GROUP, HEADED BY SEN. J.W. FULBRIGHT, TO GAIN A ROLE IN SENATE SUPERVISION OF THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THE EDITORIAL READ "SEN. J.W. FULBRIGHT HAS BEEN GIVEN HIS COME-UPPANCE BY THE SENATE."

THE LETTER OVER HELMS' SIGNATURE, SAID "I WANT TO LET YOU KNOW OF MY PLEASURE IN READING THE EDITORIAL 'BRICKBATS FOR FULBRIGHT' IN THE GLOBE DEMOCRAT OF JULY 8."

"IT REFLECTS SO WELL YOUR PAPER'S POLICY OF 'PRINTING THE NEWS IMPARTIALLY, SUPPORTING WHAT IT BELIEVES TO BE RIGHT AND OPPOSING WHAT IT BELIEVES TO BE WRONG, WITHOUT REGARD TO PARTY POLITICS.'"

FULBRIGHT WONDERED IF HELMS "MISCONSTRUED THIS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE" AS REMOVING RESTRAINTS FROM THE CIA DIRECTOR IN DEALING WITH DOMESTIC MATTERS.

FULBRIGHT CALLED IT "THE FIRST LETTER OF THIS KIND I'VE HEARD WRITTEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE CIA."